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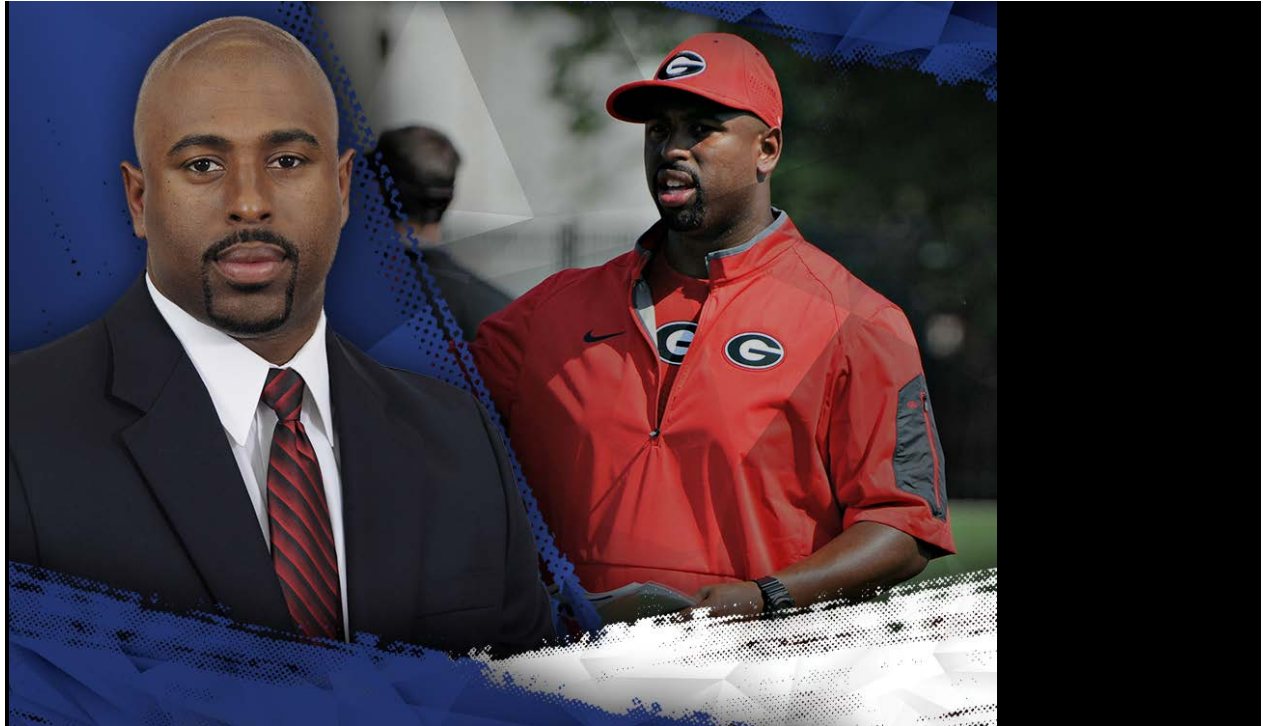
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# Olten Downs Hired As New Safeties Coach At GS

*Lorenzo Costantini to add defensive line coaching duties to DC role*



Football | 1/12/2017 10:53:00 AM

## Story Links

**STATESBORO** - Georgia Southern head football coach [Tyson Summers](#) announced Thursday the hiring of [Olten Downs](#) as a new assistant coach for the Eagles. Downs, a Georgia native who has strong recruiting ties to the Atlanta area, will coach the safeties on defense.

"[Olten Downs](#) is someone who came highly recommended to us," Summers said. "He's a tremendous football coach, is tremendous in the details of the secondary position, and has been around championships his entire life. He comes to us as a guy with a strong recruiting background in the state of Georgia, particularly the Atlanta area and I'm excited to bring him on board with the staff we have right now."

Downs, who hails from Columbus, Georgia and graduated from Shaw High School, was the assistant director of player development for Georgia football in 2016 and served as a quality

control coordinator with the UGa offense in 2015. He was given on-the-field responsibilities with Georgia's receivers for the TaxSlayer Bowl bowl win over Penn State after a coaching staff change following the 2015 regular season. Georgia won the Liberty Bowl in 2016, defeating TCU in Memphis.

Prior to joining Georgia's staff, Downs was the head coach at Creekside High School from 2013 to 2014, where he led his team to a Class AAAAAA state title in 2013 and two region championships. Eleven of his players at Creekside signed with collegiate teams during his tenure.

In his two years as head coach at Riverdale High School from 2010 to 2012, Downs led the team to its first winning season in five years and first playoff appearance in eight years.

From 2006 to 2010, Downs served as the defensive coordinator at Carver High School. While there, earned appearances to the state semifinals every year and a state title in 2007.

Throughout his coaching career, Downs has coached several athletes who have had successful college, and in some cases professional, careers. The players include Jarvis Jones, Gabriel Wright, Corey Crawford, DeQuan Menzie, Elliot and Evan Berry as well as Isaiah Crowell.

Downs, who lettered in football three times at Tennessee State, graduated in 2006 with a degree in political science. In addition, he holds a Master's of Arts in special education. He is married to Sharee Downs, and the couple has a son, Cameron Bergeron and a daughter, Sage Downs.

With the hiring of Downs, Summers also announced the shifting of two defensive coaches. [Jeremy Rowell](#) will oversee the defensive secondary and concentrate on the cornerbacks while defensive coordinator [Lorenzo Costantini](#) will add duties as the defensive line coach.

"Coach Zo is certainly a guy that's been one of the most phenomenal position coaches that I've ever been associated with," Summers said. "He's a guy that's put over 25 guys in the NFL and there were a number of different years where his group recorded 30 plus sacks throughout a season. He's experienced with his nearly 25 years in the business and will do a tremendous job up front in taking that group. This move also gives us an opportunity to let us have two people in the secondary in a spot where there is some youth and inexperience. "

Costantini, who has 23 years of defensive lin coaching experience at the Division I-A level, has coached 26 players who played in the NFL, three of whom have made the Pro Bowl. In 2014, while at UCF, his line helped anchor the No. 5 total defense in the FBS and the No. 6 rushing defense. The Knights were 22nd in the country in sacks per game and ninth in the country in scoring defense. This past season, his first at GS as the defensive coordinator, his defense finished 13th in the country in third down defense and 20th nationally in red zone defense.

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